

LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FUND – PROGRESS REPORT

February 7, 2000

I DEPARTMENT/AGENCY: Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

II PROJECT TITLE:
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Web Site Multimedia Project

III PROJECT LEADER:
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IV DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

This is a project intended to provide an interactive medium for the dissemination of wildlife education topics and information to users in Louisiana and other states. Streamed audio and video will deliver information to the public in the form of video news releases, radio show rebroadcasts, interviews, video tours and species profile videos. This service will greatly enhance the Agencies current system of information dissemination which involves static, non-interactive web pages, printed media and a weekly radio show. Use of the Internet in this way has been demonstrated to dramatically increase audience figures while also cutting mailing costs. This project will also provide an internet chatroom which will be available to grade school students from their classrooms. This chatroom will host live discussions on topics such as wildlife conservation and species identification with biologists on hand to answer questions. In addition, the audio and video streams will include materials suitable for use in the classroom.

V PROJECT STATUS

A. Phases I and II of the project are now complete. The new LDWF web site was launched 12/27/99. According to the outline of Phase III audio and video content has been encoded and is now available to the general public. Material for chatroom sessions is being compiled. Schools have been contacted to recruit participants and to set a date for the first chatroom session. Phase IV of the project has been rescheduled to begin 3/15/2000, three months later than the original date of 12/15/99.

B. Accomplishments to date include:

- ?? Encoded audio and video content for streaming and uploaded it to LDWF web site.
- ?? Installed and configured all hardware and software necessary for the project
- ?? Completed training with contractor and trained personnel from each division of LDWF in maintenance of their sections of the web site

- ?? Uploaded content to new LDWF web site
- ?? New LDWF web site launched 12/27/99

C. Problems encountered during this reporting period:

- ?? Changes in BrightStar personnel have delayed the project as a whole. Although a few minor problems persist the invoice has been paid and the contract is complete.
- ?? Slow download speed caused by Microsoft Access. A solution to this problem requires the databases be moved to a SQL server.

D. Developments described above have made it necessary to re-structure the phases of this project again. The following is the adjusted implementation timetable:

Phase I (completed) Audio and video data have been selected for use in AV streaming training. Planning for the first chat room session has proceeded. Photographs and press releases have been submitted to the contractor for inclusion. Hardware and software needed for the project have been installed. The 3 MB Router and the LaNet circuit have been installed and are functional.

Phase II (completed): All training, installation of hardware and software has been completed and contractor supplied software has been delivered and installed.

Phase III (3 months) began 12/15/99: Encoding of audio and video will begin. By the end of this phase, streamed content will be available to the general public. Material for the chat room sessions will continue to be compiled. The date of the first chat room will be advertised and recruitment of participants will begin.

Phase IV (1 month) to begin 3/15/2000: The first chat room session will be held.

VI COST VS. BUDGET

	<u>Category</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected Surplus</u>
A.	Equipment	\$10,380	\$10,163	None as yet
B.	Software	\$ 7,973	\$ 835	None as yet
C.	Telecommunications	\$27,057	\$16,685	None as yet
D.	Professional/ Contract Services	\$22,057	\$16,300	None as yet
E.	Other Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A
		=====	=====	=====
	Total Project Cost	\$67,410	\$43,983	\$ None as yet

**VII ITEMIZED EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS INCURRED
DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD**

CFMS #551605	BrightStar/Integrated Ctls.	\$16,300	Professional Services
None	O.T.M.	6,220	Data Circuits
None	Software Artisans	99	SA FileUp software